



Visitation Protocol and Ground Rules for the McGee Mountain Wild Burro Gather

Opportunities for public viewing (i.e. media, interested public) of gather operations will be made available to the greatest extent possible; however, the primary considerations will be to protect the health, safety and welfare of the animals being gathered and the personnel involved. The public must adhere to guidance from the on-site BLM representative. It is BLM policy that the public will not be allowed to come into direct contact with wild horses or burros being held in BLM facilities. Only authorized BLM personnel or contractors may enter the corrals or directly handle the animals. The general public may not enter the corrals or directly handle the animals at any time or for any reason during BLM operations.

BLM recognizes and respects the right of interested members of the public and the media to observe the McGee Mountain wild burro gather. At the same time, BLM must ensure the health and safety of the public, BLM's employees and contractors, the private landowner, and America's wild burros. Accordingly, BLM developed these rules to maximize the opportunity for reasonable public access to the gather while ensuring that BLM's health and safety responsibilities are fulfilled. Failure to maintain safe distances from operations at the gather and temporary holding sites could result in members of the public inadvertently getting in the path of the wild burros or gather personnel, thereby placing themselves and others at risk, or causing stress and potential injury to the wild burros.

The primary trap sites for the gather will be on private land. To be in compliance with the landowner's stipulations for viewing the gather, the viewing location at the gather site and holding corrals must be on public land. No member of the public or media may view the trap site or holding site from private land. The viewing locations may vary depending on topography, terrain and other factors.

General Daily Protocol

Due to this type of operation (luring wild horses and burros to bait), spectators and viewers will be prohibited as it will impact the contractor's ability to capture wild horses and burros. Only essential gather operation personnel will be allowed at the trap site during operations. However, to accommodate public viewing, an escorted trip has been scheduled for August 18th. Interested visitors are requested to sign up prior to arriving by calling and leaving a message on the Gather Information Hotline. Observers will be polite, professional and respectful to BLM managers and staff and the contractor/employees. Visitors who do not cooperate and follow the rules will be escorted off the gather site by BLM law enforcement personnel, and will be prohibited from participating in any subsequent observation days.

BLM reserves the right to alter these rules based on changes in circumstances that may pose a risk to health, public safety or the safety of wild burros (such as weather, lightning, wildfire, etc.).

Public Outreach and Education Day-Specific Protocol

A public/media tour provides a more structured mechanism for interested members of the public to see the wild burro gather activities at a given site. On this day, BLM attempts to allow the public to get an overall sense of the gather process and has available staff who can answer questions that the public may have. The public rendezvous at a designated place and are escorted by BLM representatives to and from the gather site.

Opportunities for public viewing (i.e. media, interested public) of gather operations would be made available to the extent possible; however, the primary considerations would be to protect the health, safety and welfare of the animals being gathered and the personnel involved. The public must adhere to guidance from the on-site BLM representative. It is BLM policy that the public would not be allowed to come into direct contact with wild burros being held in BLM facilities. Only authorized BLM personnel or contractors may enter the corrals or directly handle the animals. The general public may not enter the corrals or directly handle the animals at any time or for any reason during BLM operations.